ECLIPSE COMICS™
№ 8

The Illustrated Horror Magazine for Mature Readers

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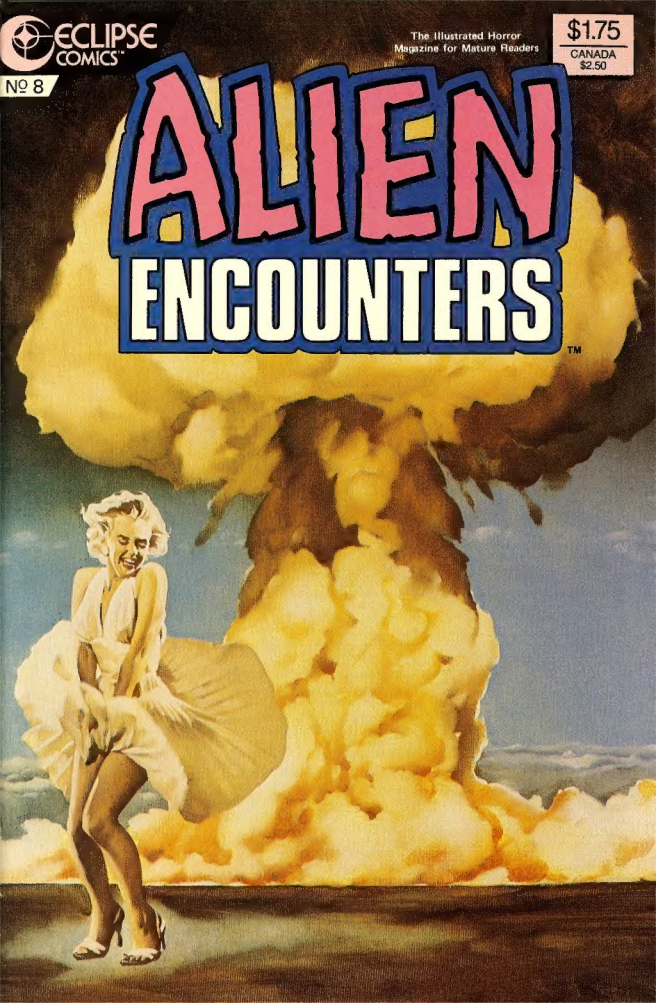
ALIEN ENCOUNTERS™



The PENUMBRA

ECLIPSE COMICS • P. O. BOX 199 • GUERNEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95446

ON THE RACKS

SCOUT no. 10
Scout discovers more about the Colonel as Project Mountain Fire is unleased!

ALIEN ENCOUNTERS no. 8
Bruce Jones and Jim Sullivan offer the first of four fantastic sf adventures, with "Take One Capsule Every Million Years."

FASHION IN ACTION SUMMER SPECIAL no. 1
From the pages of SCOUT, the F.I.A. cross the globe to Germany in their first full length adventure.

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On the brink of armegeddon, the New Wave fights to save the earth. Only 50¢!

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In the jungles of South America, Airboy is reunited with the Heap and learns the fate of Valkyrie! Only 50¢!

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Follow the exploits of the Kren Patrol as they try to save the Zooniverse!

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GIANT-SIZE MINI COMICS no. 1
The world of mini-comics is expanded to full-size with some of the most innovative concepts in comics today!

CROSSFIRE & RAINBOW no. 3
Meet the world's worst Elvis impersonator as the romance between Crossfire and Rainbow advances to the next plateau.

MR. MONSTER'S HI-OCTANE HORROR no. 1
Mr. Monster plays host as he presents three classic horror stories.

DNAgents no. 12
A news reporter is out to prove the DNAgents do not exist and are merely a corporate hoax.

MIRACLEMAN no. 9
The story continues with the birth of Miraclebaby—by Alan Moore, Rick Veitch and Rick Bryant.

NAIVE INTER-DIMENSIONAL COMMANDO KOALAS
Mammals vs. Marsupials as the Koalas take on the Adolescent Radioactive Black Belt Hamsters.

TOR 3-D no. 2
The second and final issue of the early 1950s classic 3-D set by Joe Kubert.

CLAREMORE, U.S.A. Woke up this morning in room 303 of the Hotel Will Rogers, the tallest building in Claremore, Oklahoma, and home of the famous Radium Water Mineral Baths, "where the world bathes its way to health." During the night we heard the trains running by, blowing long and long as they hit the grade crossings. Down below we left a good old antique oak library table strapped to the top of our car with bungee cords, and knew nobody would steal it. After all, this is what used to be known as Indian Territory, and honesty is as common as courtesy in these parts.

At seven we got our wake-up call and at seven-thirty our complimentary tray of hot coffee, real cream and chocolate mints was delivered to the door. If you like your architecture in the Spanish style and your grand hotel traditions on the economical side, this old place is just for you. By nine-thirty, Althaea and i were up on the sixth floor in the ladies' steam room with a flock of other bathers. From there we progressed to the black sulphrous mineral baths, good for what ails you inside and out. Will Rogers said the Claremore waters would "cure you of everything but being a Democrat." He was right. I'm *still* afflicted with that particular folly.

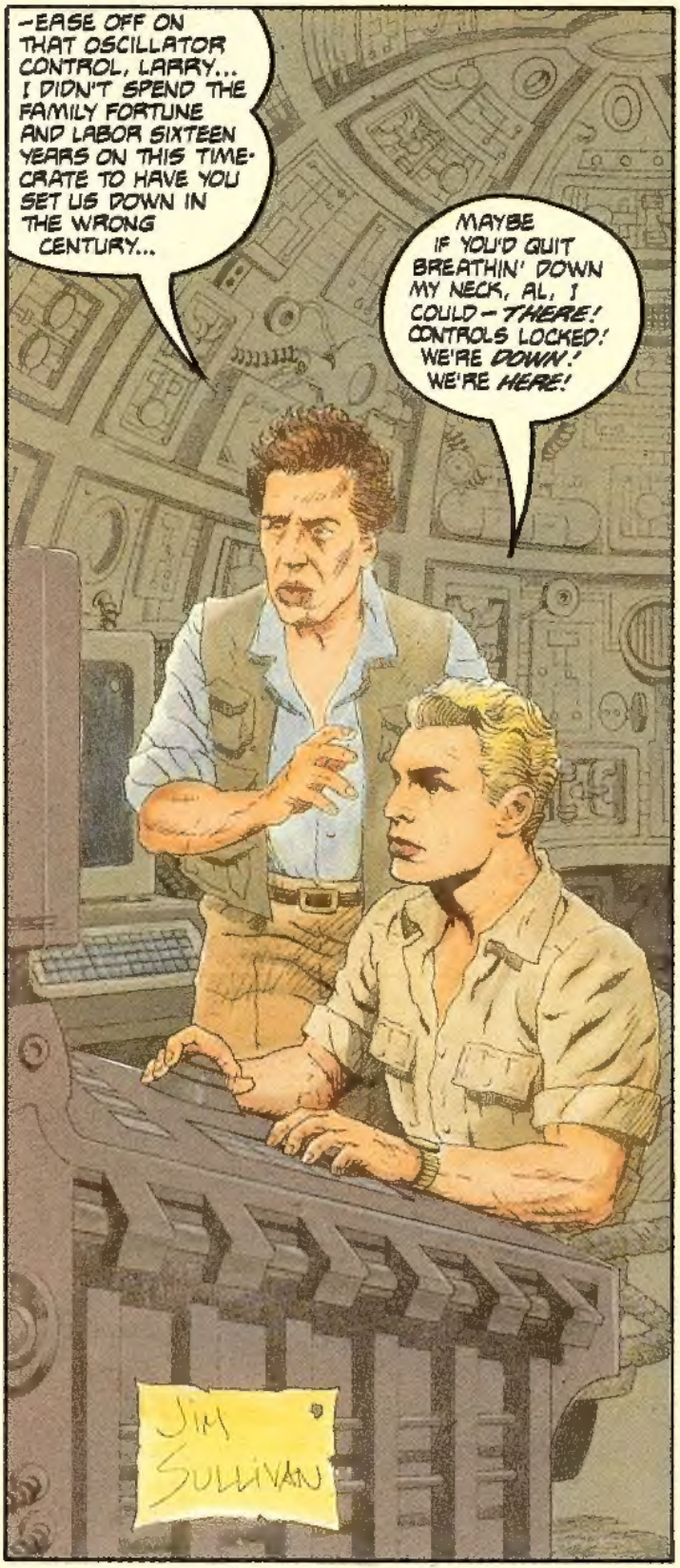
After stewing in the dark and Democratic waters until your head spins and your ice cubes run out, it's time for a blanket wrap, and that's what we got. This is followed by a Swedish massage given by a slim woman who has incredibly strong hands. I didn't quite catch her name, but i think one of the other women, who bathes there regularly, called her Val. In any case, she collects those neat little old glass candy dishes in the form of chickens. Next time i go to Claremore, i'm gonna bring her a red one. That's the one colour she lacks.

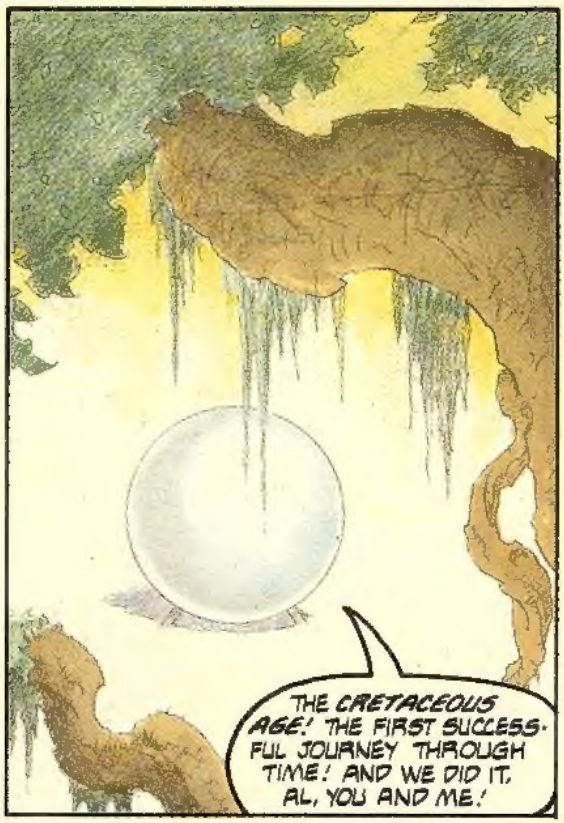
I mean it, folks. This is some swell place. The mineral baths cost less than half what they do out in California, and the hotel serves the greatest ham and beans with corn muffins for lunch, after your appetite gets in gear. Heck, they still sell linen-finish postcards for a quarter in the lobby! Oh, did i forget to tell you about the wonderful western wagon light fixtures, streamlined chrome chairs, painted "Indian blanket" motif plaster ceiling moldings and the friendly woman who gave me a copy of an old brochure from the 1930s? If i did, you can slap my wrist and call me careless, 'cause there's nothing short of dragging you there bodily that i wouldn't do to convince you to make this place a stop on your next vacation.

catherine yronwode

ALIEN ENCOUNTERS™ no. 8, August 1986. Published by Eclipse Comics, P.O. Box 199, Guerneville, CA 95446. Catherine Yronwode, Editor. Sean Deming, Assistant Editor. Dean Mullaney, Publisher. Alien Encounters TM Eclipse Enterprises, Inc. "Take a Capsule Every Million Years": Story ©1986 Bruce Jones. Art ©1986 Jim Sullivan. "It's a Wonderful Day in Our Neighborhood": Story ©1986 Buzz Dixon. Art ©1986 Attilio Micheluzzi. "Joyriding": Story ©1986 Charles Wagner. Art ©1986 Dan Day and Tom Yeates. "Moving Violation": Story ©1986 Toren Smith & Ken Macklin. Art ©1986 Ken Macklin. All other material ©1986 Eclipse Enterprises, Inc. All rights reserved. Film by SM Graphics. Printed in Canada.

TAKE ONE CAPSULE EVERY MILLION YEARS


—EASE OFF ON THAT OSCILLATOR CONTROL, LARRY... I DIDN'T SPEND THE FAMILY FORTUNE AND LABOR SIXTEEN YEARS ON THIS TIME-CRATE TO HAVE YOU SET US DOWN IN THE WRONG CENTURY...
MAYBE IF YOU'D QUIT BREATHIN' DOWN MY NECK, AL, I COULD—THERE! CONTROLS LOCKED! WE'RE DOWN! WE'RE HERE!
JIM SULLIVAN



Story: Bruce Jones Art: Jim Sullivan Colors: Steve Oliff

YOU KNOW, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I REALLY WASN'T SURE IT WAS POSSIBLE! THINK OF IT, AL, OVER A MILLION YEARS IN THE PAST! THE MIND BOGGLES!
MY MIND WILL BOGGLE A LOT MORE, LARRY, WHEN MY PICTURE'S ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE NEW YORK TIMES!
...I CAN SEE THE LOOK ON CHATWORTH'S FACE. NOW! HA! I'VE LOOKED LIKE A MONKEY FOR THE LAST TIME!
WHAT'S WITH THE ROUTINE BETWEEN YOU AND B.F. CHATWORTH?
CONCEITED BLOODY BASTARD! EVERY TIME I TURN AROUND HE'S MADE THE HEADLINES AGAIN!
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS— HIS FIRST BIG SCOOP...
The New York Times
—NEW YORK, FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 1934—
CHATWORTH FINDS LOCH NESS MONSTER
English Explorer Unlocks Ancient Myth
YES, I REMEMBER, HE...
AL! LOOK!
PTERANODON!
2

NO, WAIT— IT'S TOO BIG! WE'D NEVER GET IT INTO THE CAPSULE!
WHATEVER YOU SAY, LARRY.
WHAT WE NEED IS A SMALL SAUROPOD, SOMETHING MANAGEABLE... AN ORNITHOLESTES, MAYBE...
YOU'RE THE EXPERT ON FAUNA— I JUST HEFT THE RIFLES AND SCREW IN THE BOLTS!
YOU DID A LOT MORE THAN JUST SCREW IN THE BOLTS, AL. WE BUILT THE TIME CAPSULE TOGETHER!
YEAH, AND IT'S US THAT GET THE CREDIT THIS TIME, NOT THAT CREEP CHATWORTH! HELL NOT MAKE A MONKEY OUT OF ME AGAIN!
YOU REALLY HATE THE GUY, DON'T YOU?
AND FOR GOOD REASON— LOOK AT THIS...
The News
NEW YORK, SUNDAY APRIL 15, 1991
Chatworth Discovers 'Extinct' Dodo
Noted English Explorer Finds Exotic Bird On Remote Island
YOU CAN'T BEGRUDGE A MAN FOR BEING A GOOD EXPLORER, AL...
HA! YOU KNOW WHO FINANCED ALL THOSE EXOTIC TRIPS? HIS RICH AUNTIE! SURE I COULD MAKE HISTORY TOO IF I HAD LIMITLESS FUNDS!
3

SMUG LITTLE WIMP. I'D LIKE TO—
HEY— WHAT'S WITH ALL THE BLACK HAIR ON YOUR ARM?...
HUH...?
WHAT TH--
I'M GROWIN' OUTTA THIS SHIRT ALL OF A SUDDEN!
WHA-WHAT IS THIS? MY FINGERS ARE ALL STUBBY-LOOKING TOO!
RIPPP
CRIPES, YOU'RE BEGINNING TO LOOK LIKE A...A...
YES, YOU TOO! AL! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE! NOW!
THE TIME TRAVEL—I-IT MUST HAVE ALTERED OUR CELLULAR MAKE-UP SOMEHOW...WE'RE REVERTING TO THE PRIMITIVE!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! THERE WEREN'T ANY CAVEMEN IN THE CRETACEOUS AGE!
THAT'S WHAT WE'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED, BUT—
LARRY! LOOK OUT!
FANTASTIC! I'VE GOT TO GET A PICTURE!
LARRY, YOU IDIOT! HE'S CHARGING!
4

LARRY—! DAMN! BULLETS DON'T HAVE ANY EFFECT!
AAGGHHH!
GUN'S EMPTY! HE'S COMING FOR ME!
AGH! TRIPPED! THIS IS IT!
TYRANNOSAUR!
G-GOTTA G-GET TO THE TIME CAPSULE...
...WH-WHICH WAY? ...C-CAN'T THINK... MIND REVERTING TO THE PRIMITIVE... MUST THINK...
...A-AT LAST...
5

...e New York Times

Weather: Mostly cloudy, ... light easterly winds; clou... Partly sunny skies, warmer... Temperatures today 80-85, ... yesterday 70-80. Details ...

New York Times —NEW YORK, SUNDAY, AUGUST 11, 1994— ONE D...

...oceed ...r Voters

A Democrat, ... that his plan ...ffect Monday at ... and would soon be ... ...

... said they would ... highest court in ... of Appeals ... ...ed, but not ... ...er said in a state... ...e appellate ruling, ...all-steam ahead." ..., the Director of ... who was assigned to ... program, denied ... that employees ... administration ... crats over Republi... ...

... political advisor ... Julius said. "We ex... his ru... be totally ch... ...

... the Appellate Divi... ...re Court in Albany ...y the state Republi... ...ge L. Clark, for an ... the plan. The court ...d failed to show fi... ...ould result if the plan ... ...

...ent to buy the plan ...ument, the authori... ...be certificates by ...ernments to invest ... have the proper ...portionate ... ...

...men are out for the ...n't know or follow the ...am Kelsey, who di... ...ndences binding at ...time of Technology in...

BRING 'EM BACK ALIVE: B.F. Chatworth jubilantly points to the bemused Abominable Snowman he captured near the summit of Mt. Kanchanjunga in the Himalayan range.

CHATWORTH CAPTURES ABOMINABLE SNOWMAN

Indomitable English Explorer Finds Yeti

By RITA CARSON
Special to The New York Times

KATMANDU, Aug. 10 - Bainbridge Frothingham Chatworth III today startled the world with yet another ... whose past discoveries include the Loch Ness monster, the Oak Island treasure, the dodo bird, the vault of the Titanic, the lost Rafiels tribe of ... is not dangerous, but cautioned reporters to "stay downwind of the smelly bugger."

Mexico Rep... Accord to ... Debt Payn...

By RICHARD J. ME...
Special to The New York T...

MEXICO CITY, Aug. 11 ... announced today that it ha... agreement with its ban... group to stretch out re... much of its $80 billion ... over 14 years at lower int...

The agreements, announ... Mexican Finance Minister ... Serrano, would constitute t... their restructuring of ban... loans that has granted to a ... ican debtor country.

At a news conference ha... Serrano said that the agr... "in no way a panacea," bu... relief, a breather and im... step in the right direction ... hoped it would give supp... Latin American debtor coun... negotiations with foreign ...

Some Difficulties F...

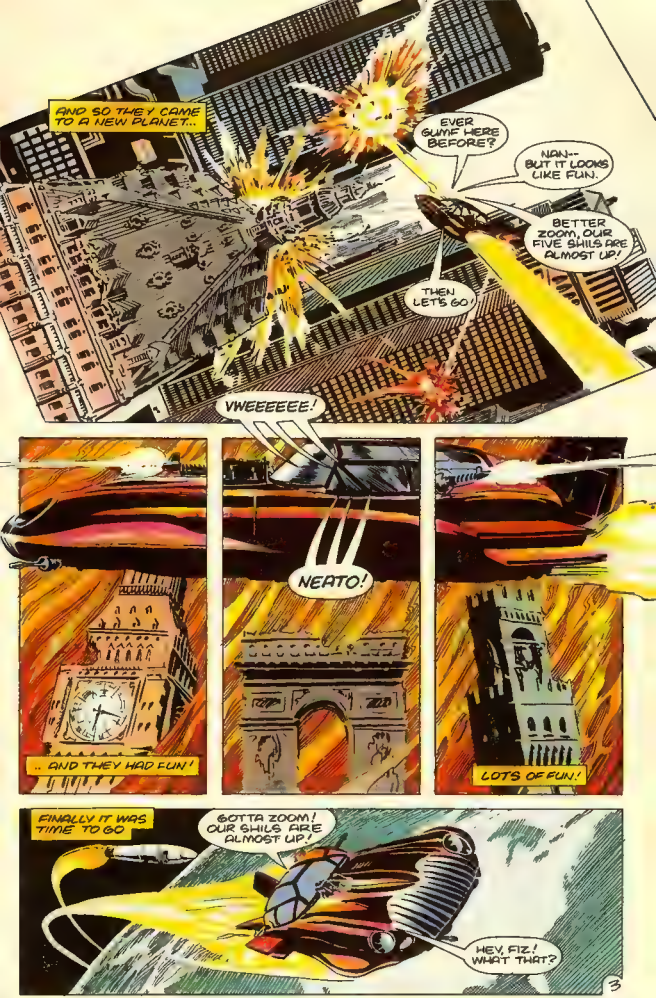
The agreement, which ... with Mexico's bank advis... New York, must still be ... almost 600 banks around t... are holding loans to Mexi... to convince the banks to ... weeks," Mr. Silva Herzog ... acknowledged there may b... particularly with banks ... can loans were due in ... the next year.

[In New York, bankers ... through much progress ... made, the negotiations ...

Continued on Page D...

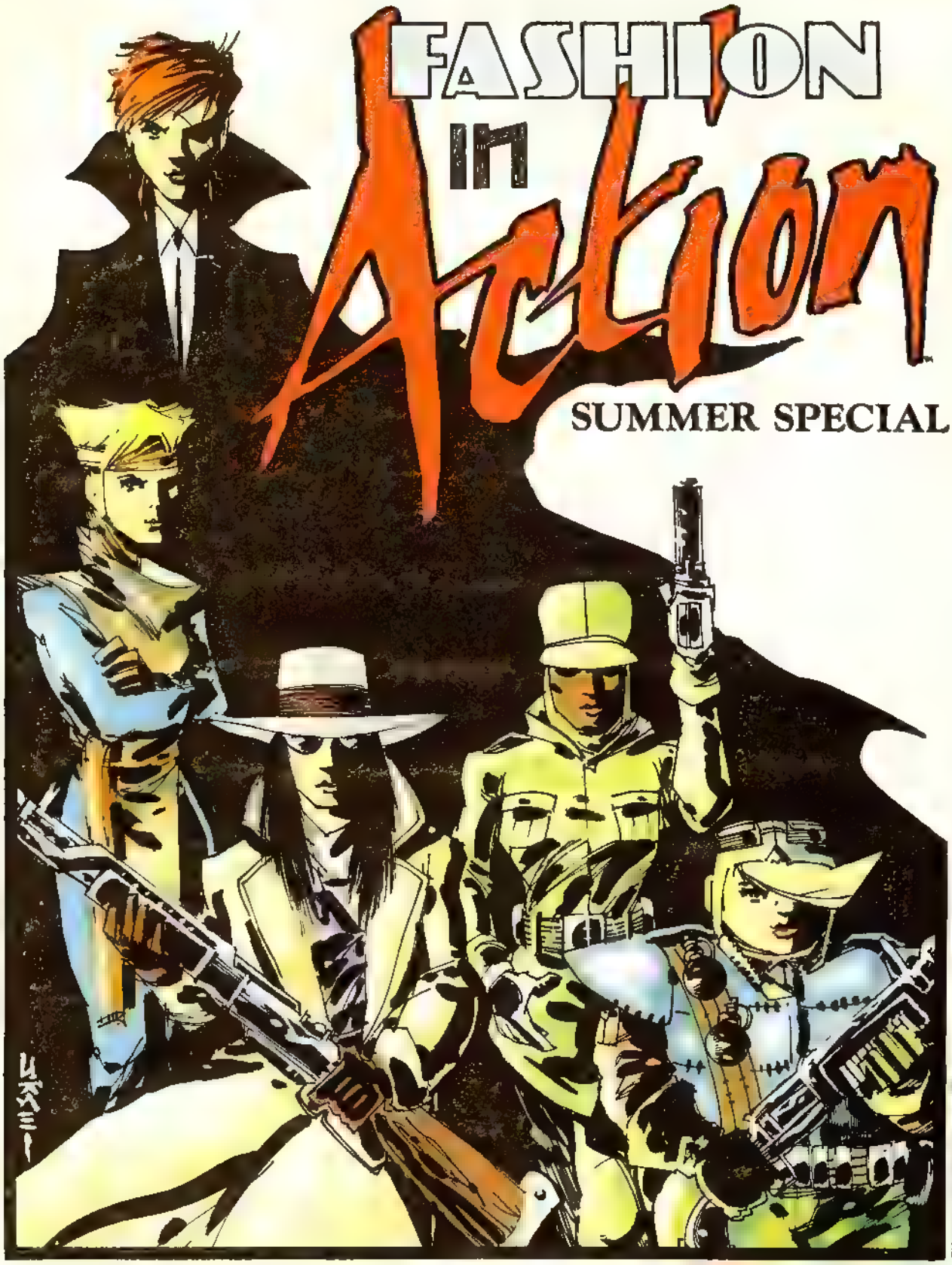
SCHOOL IS OUT ON THE PLANET SEPHALPOD AND SOME PARENTS ARE RUNNING SHORT OF PATIENCE...
FIZBIN! SNOOT! ZINGER! PAY ATTENTION!
I WILL BE GONE FOR FIVE SHILS. DAZZ THE FLIEDERVOOM WHILE I'M GONE!
YES, DADDY.
STORY, CHARLES WAGNER
PENCILS, DAN DAY
INKS, TOM YEATES
LETTERS, TIM HARKINS
COLOR, RON COURTNEY
SNOOT! ZINGER! LET'S GO FOR ZOOM!
NO! DAD'LL GET MAD.
FINISH FIRST.
IN A WINK, FIZBIN HAD THE HATCH OPEN.
FINISH LATER. ZOOM NOW.
WELL...
WITHIN MINUTES...
WEEEEEE!
1

C'MON FIZBIN. LET'S GO GUMFING.
OKEE-- DOKEE.
OOOO! NEATO! JAZZZ-DAZZZ!
AFTER A BIT, THE GAME GOT OLD.
THIS IS HUM-DUM.
YEAH! LET'S VIP TO KADOOM.
GOOD IDEA.
AND SO OFF THEY WENT..
BETTER! BETTER!
VWEEEE! OOOOO!
AGAIN, EVEN THIS NEW SPORT BECAME DULL.
HUM-DUM! HUM-DUM!
OKAY! OKAY!
YAWN:: AHH-UMM.
I KNOW A PLACE WE CAN GUMF.


AND SO THEY CAME TO A NEW PLANET...
EVER GUYNF HERE BEFORE?
NOAH-- BUT IT LOOKS LIKE FUN.
BETTER ZOOM, OUR FIVE SHILS ARE ALMOST UP!
THEN LET'S GO!
VWEEEEEEE!
.. AND THEY HAD FUN!
NEATO!
LOTS OF FUN!
FINALLY IT WAS TIME TO GO
GOTTA ZOOM! OUR SHILS ARE ALMOST UP!
HEY, FIZ! WHAT THAT?
3

DAD'S GONNA GUMF US FOR SURE!
HE WON'T SEE!
I HOPE NOT.
ARE YOU BOYS FINISHED?
YES, DA-DEE
I'M PROUD OF YOU
JUST WALK AWAY SLOW...
HEY HOW'D THIS DENT GET ON THE FENDER!
UH-OH...
AND SO YOU SEE, SEPHALOPOD IS LIKE ANY OTHER PLANET: YOU HAVE TO TEACH KIDS RESPECT FOR OTHER PEOPLES' PROPERTY. PROVIDED OF COURSE YOUR PLANET HASN'T ALREADY BEEN GUMFED BY SOMEONE ELSE'S KIDS!
THE END

NUMBER ONE WITH A BULLET.



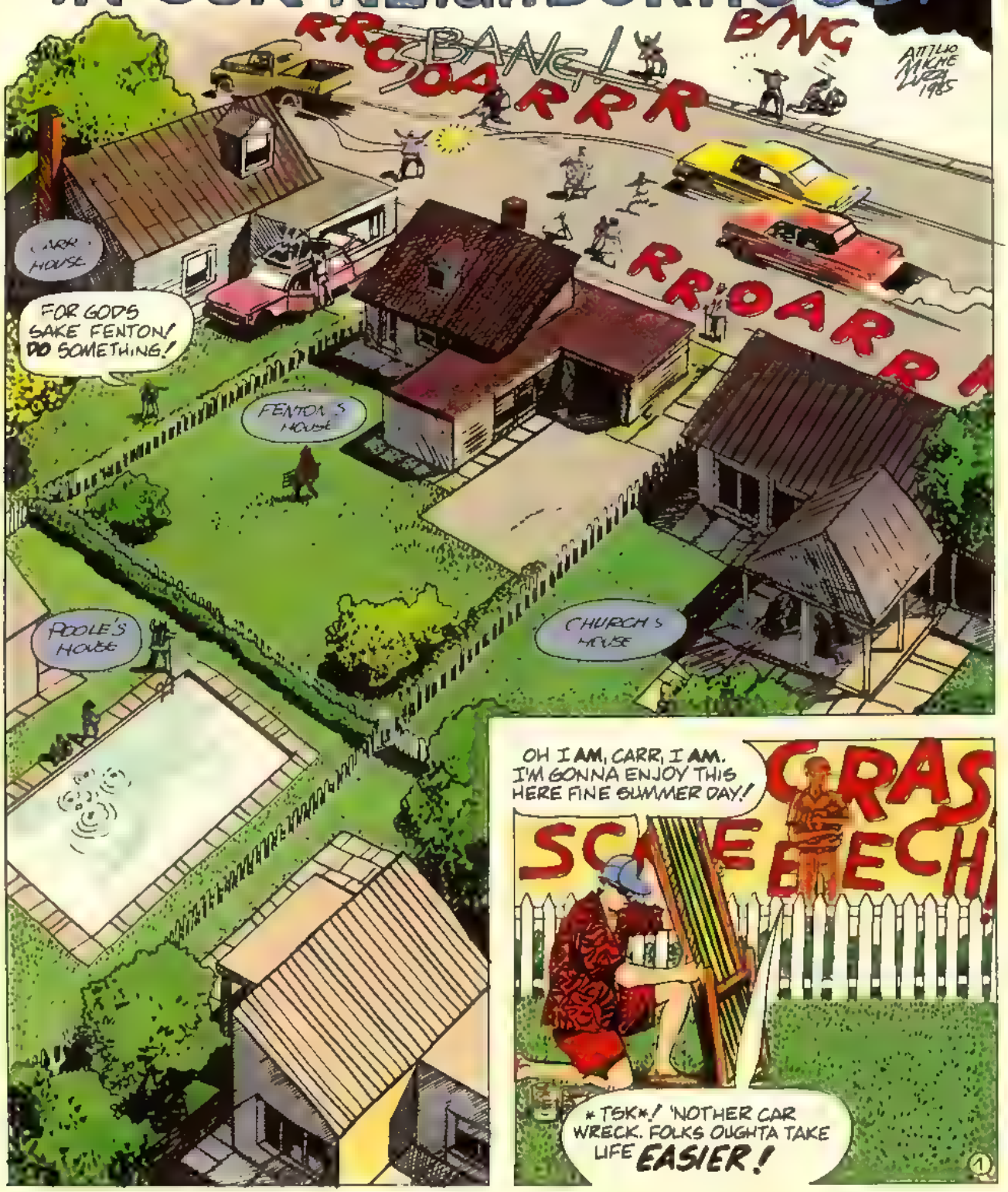
COMING THIS AUGUST FROM ECLIPSE COMICS

TM and © 986 John K. Snyder

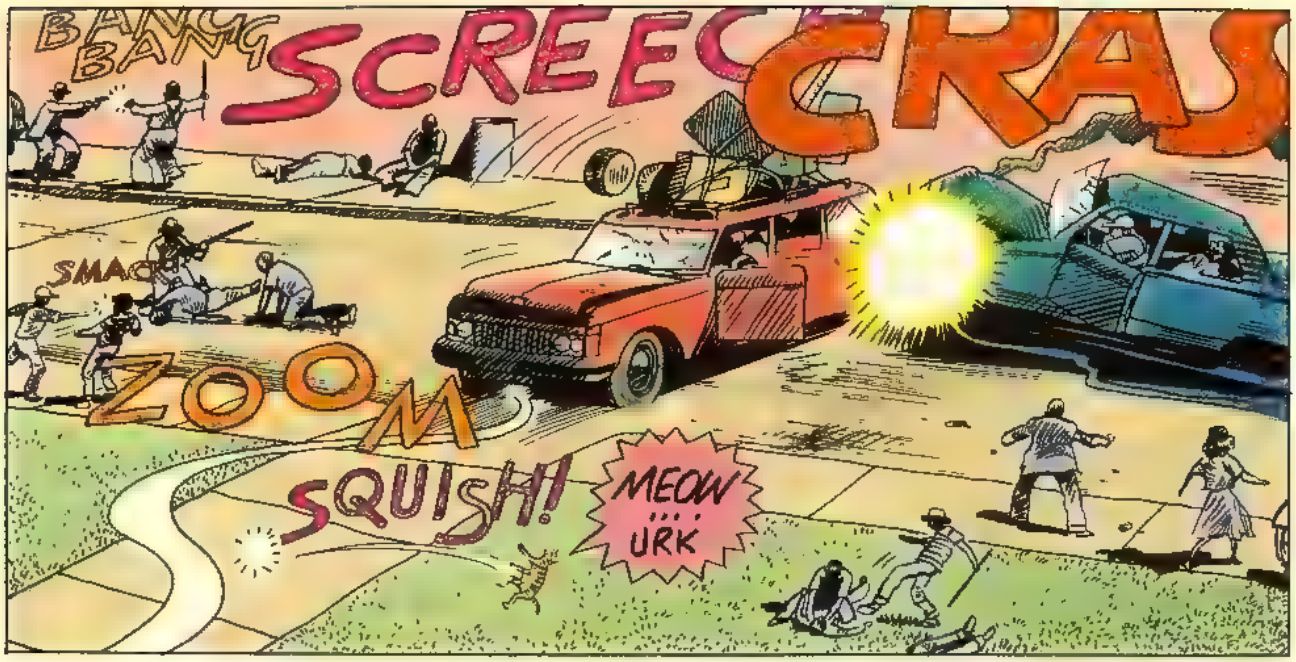
SUMMER ALWAYS COMES EARLY TO ATLANTA... A COURTESY MOTHER NATURE EXTENDS TO THE CAPITAL OF THE OLD SOUTH.. EVEN TODAY, WITH MAJOR FACTORIES AND INDUSTRIES REPLACING KING COTTON, THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER IS SPECIAL...

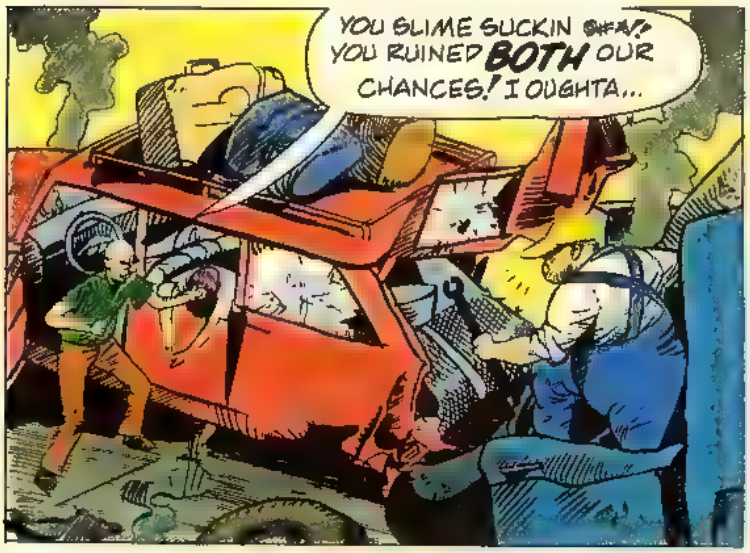
STORY BUZZ DIXON • ART ATTILIO MICHELUZZI • COLORS RON COURTNEY • LETTERING WAYNE TRUMAN •

'IT'S A WONDERFUL DAY IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.'



ENJOY IT?!? ARE YOU NUTS!?!? DON'T YOU REALIZE HOW MUCH TIME YOU'VE GOT LEFT?!?!
BEE
SURE DO, CARR. THE REST O' MY LIFE!
DON'T BE A FOOL! COME WITH US... WE'LL SQUEEZE YOU IN SOMEHOW!
DADDY! DADDY! I CAN'T FIND TABBY....
GET IN THE @#!* CAR, SALLY, AND FORGET THE **%** CAT!
NO, YOU'RE THE @#*! FOOL, CARR!
THE ONLY SAFE PLACE IS UNDERWATER!
THERE'S STILL TIME, BUFFALO BUTT! IF WE HEAD NORTH....
SCREECH!
WHUMP!
SCREECH!
WHUMP!
BLAM!
BLAM!
HMM, GUNSHOTS. SURE IS SAD HOW SOME PEOPLE JUST AIN'T ABLE TO ENJOY THIS WONDERFUL SUMMER DAY...
BUT TABBY... UGH!
SNAK!
GET IN THE CAR, YOU FILTHY LITTLE @%#*!
NOW, CARR THET AIN'T NO WAY TO TREAT A YOUNG 'UN.
@#* YOU, FENTON! BURN IN HELL FOR ALL I CARE... YOU HAD YOUR @#*! CHANCE!
2


BANG BANG
SCREEC
CRAS
SMAC
ZOOM
SQUISH!
MEOW
URK

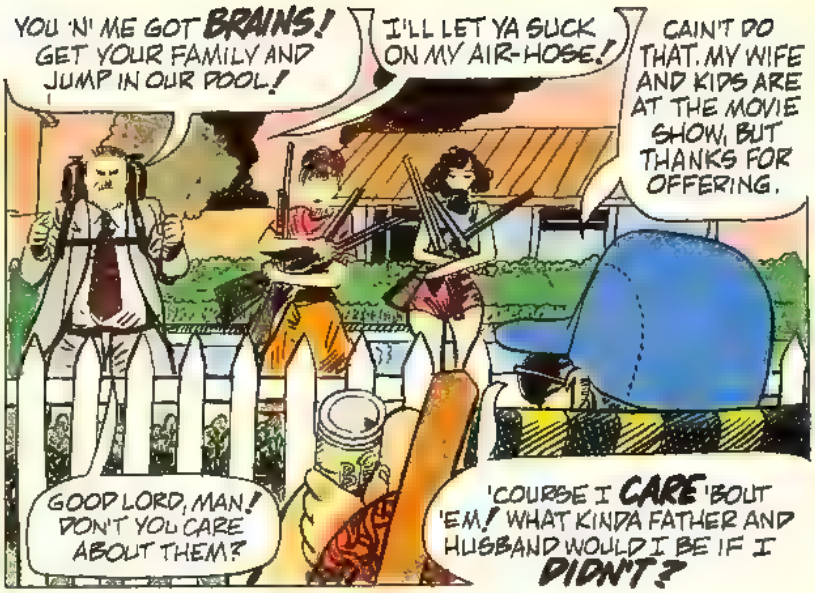

YOU SLIME SUCKIN SHAT! YOU RUINED BOTH OUR CHANCES! I OUGHTA...

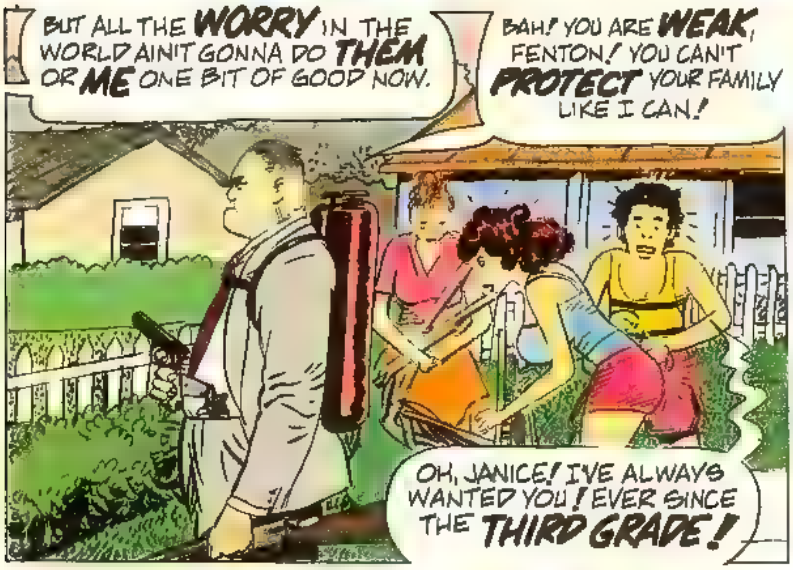
CRUNCH

OH MIGOD! YOU KILLED BERNARD!
SCREECH

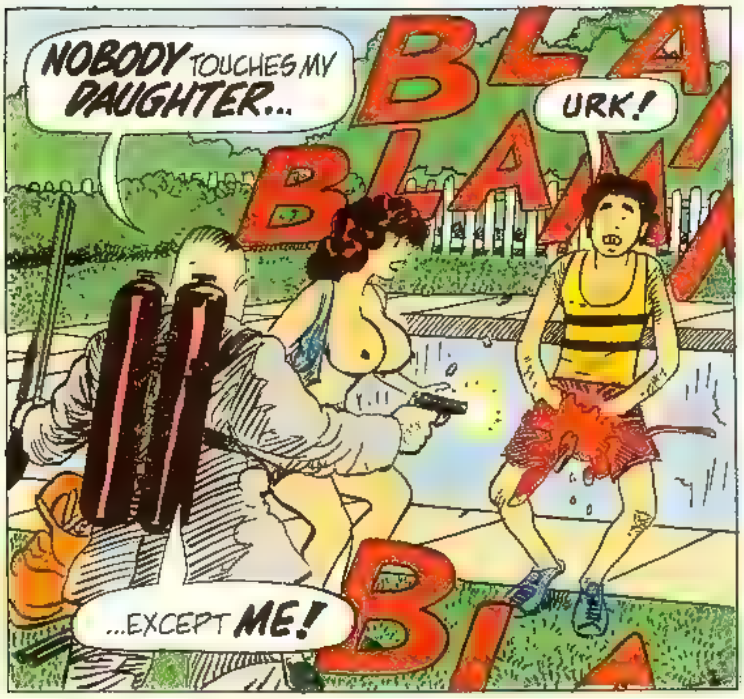
KER-WHAM
3

NOW, AIN'T THAT A PITY.. AND BESIDES, THE HIGHWAYS MUST BE PLUMB SWOLLEN SHUT BY NOW!

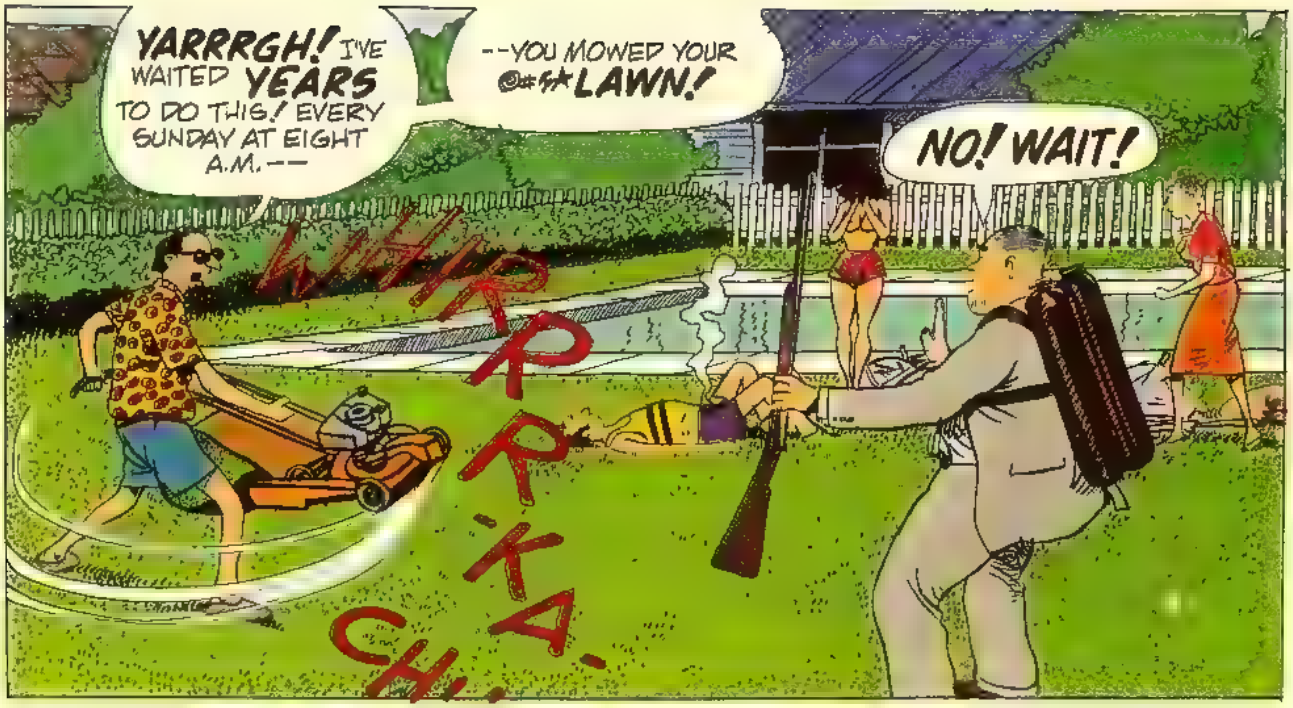

YOU 'N' ME GOT BRAINS! GET YOUR FAMILY AND JUMP IN OUR POOL!
I'LL LET YA SUCK ON MY AIR-HOSE!
CAIN'T DO THAT. MY WIFE AND KIDS ARE AT THE MOVIE SHOW, BUT THANKS FOR OFFERING.
GOOD LORD, MAN! DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT THEM?
'COURSE I CARE 'BOUT 'EM! WHAT KINDA FATHER AND HUSBAND WOULD I BE IF I DIDN'T?

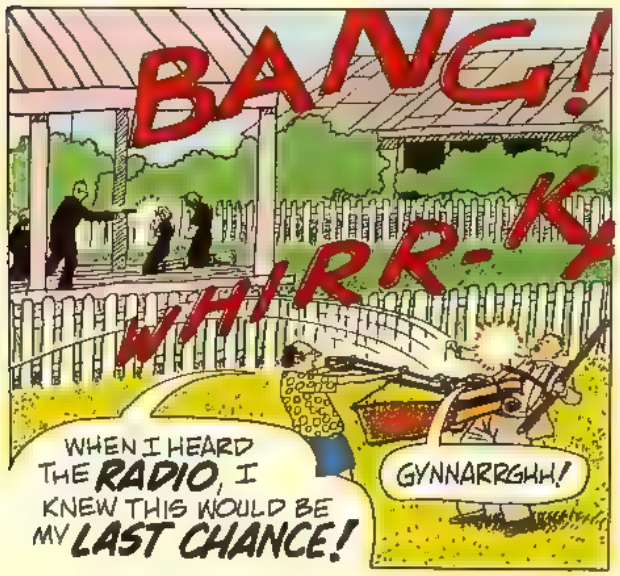

BUT ALL THE WORRY IN THE WORLD AIN'T GONNA DO THEM OR ME ONE BIT OF GOOD NOW.
BAH! YOU ARE WEAK, FENTON! YOU CAN'T PROTECT YOUR FAMILY LIKE I CAN!
OH, JANICE! I'VE ALWAYS WANTED YOU! EVER SINCE THE THIRD GRADE!

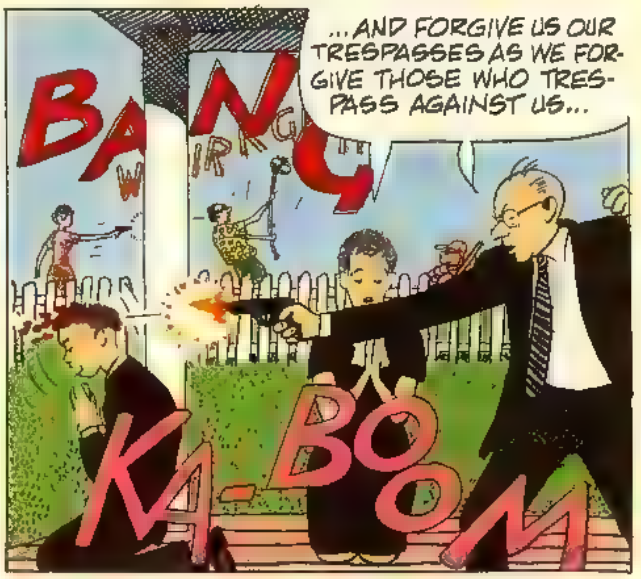
I WANNA SUCK YOUR LOVE GLOBES! I WANNA NIBBLE YOUR PASSION BUD! I WANNA...
OH RANDY.. HONESTLY!
HEY!...

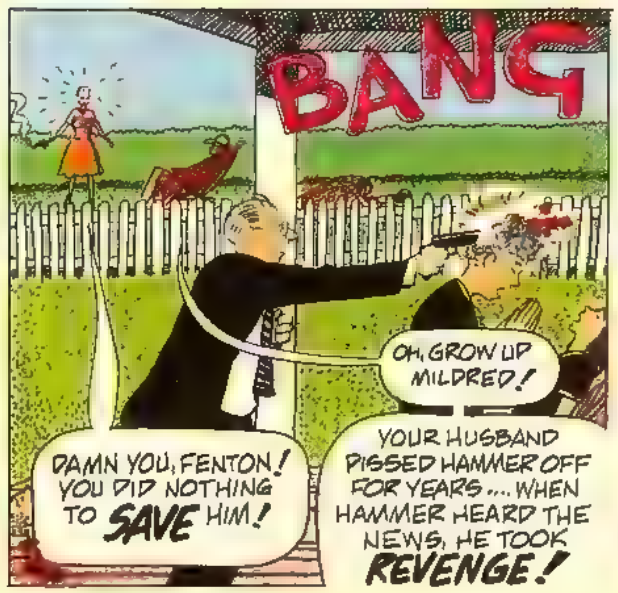

NOBODY TOUCHES MY DAUGHTER...
BLA BLAM!
URK!
...EXCEPT ME!
BI A

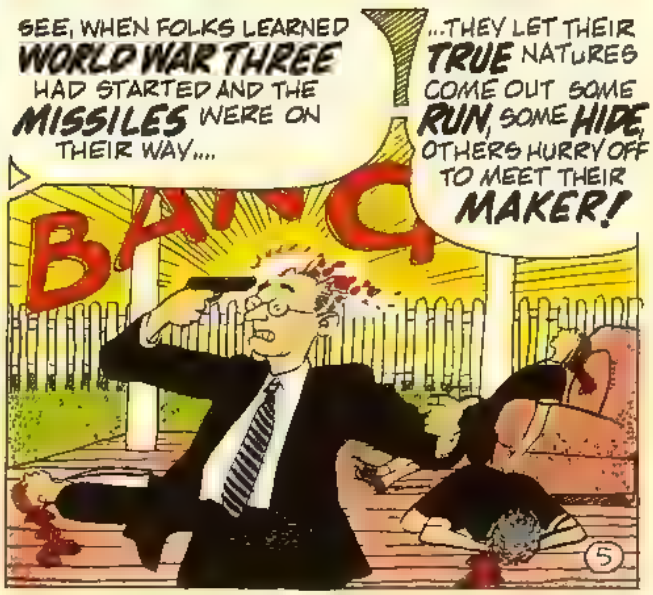
WHAH! THAT WAS MY LAST CHANCE TO LOSE MY VIRGINITY!
4

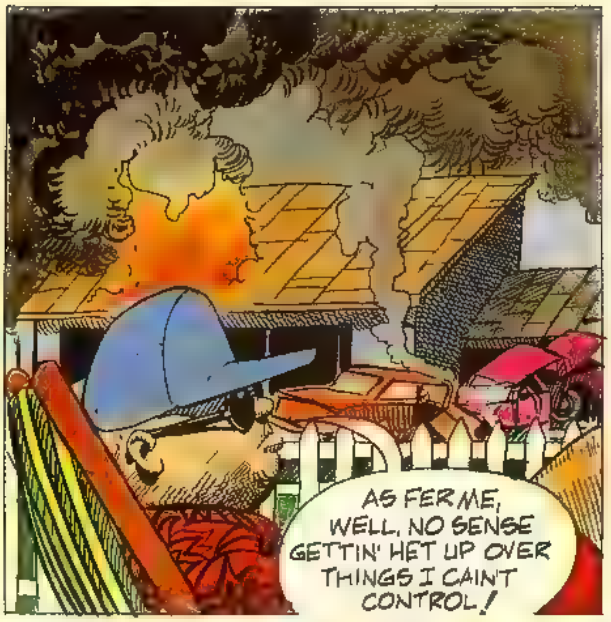

YARRRGH! I'VE WAITED YEARS TO DO THIS! EVERY SUNDAY AT EIGHT A.M.--
--YOU MOWED YOUR @#$% LAWN!
NO! WAIT!
WHIRR-KA-CH.


BANG!
WHIRR-K
WHEN I HEARD THE RADIO, I KNEW THIS WOULD BE MY LAST CHANCE!
GYNNARRGHH!

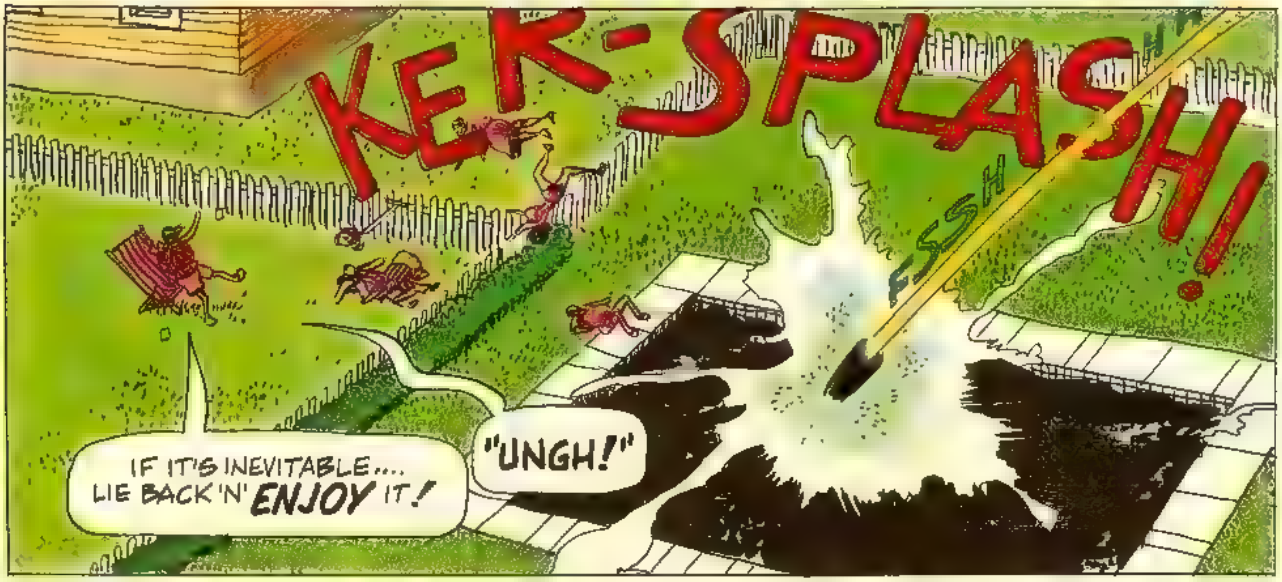

...AND FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US...
BANG
KA-BOOM


BANG
OH, GROW UP MILDRED!
DAMN YOU, FENTON! YOU DID NOTHING TO SAVE HIM!
YOUR HUSBAND PISSED HAMMER OFF FOR YEARS.... WHEN HAMMER HEARD THE NEWS, HE TOOK REVENGE!


SEE, WHEN FOLKS LEARNED WORLD WAR THREE HAD STARTED AND THE MISSILES WERE ON THEIR WAY....
...THEY LET THEIR TRUE NATURES COME OUT SOME RUN, SOME HIDE, OTHERS HURRY OFF TO MEET THEIR MAKER!
BANG
5


AS FER ME, WELL, NO SENSE GETTIN' HET UP OVER THINGS I CAIN'T CONTROL!

LIKE MY PAPPY DONE TOL' ME..


KER-SPLASH!
FSSH
IF IT'S INEVITABLE.... LIE BACK 'N' ENJOY IT!
"UNGH!"

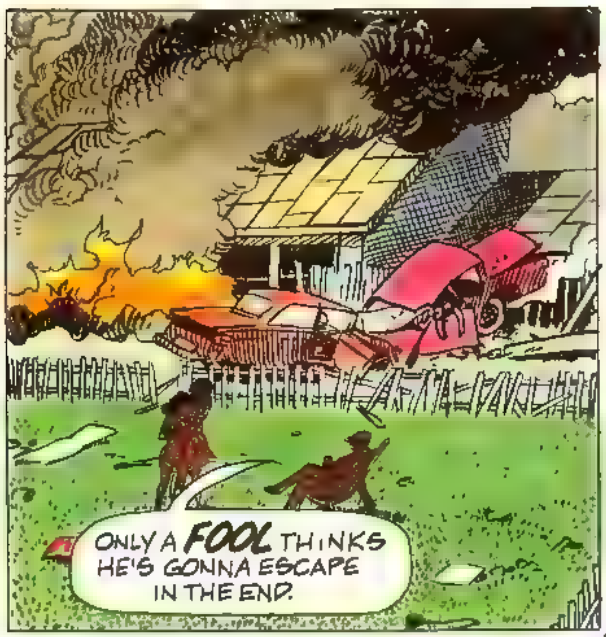
WH.. WHAT WAS THAT?

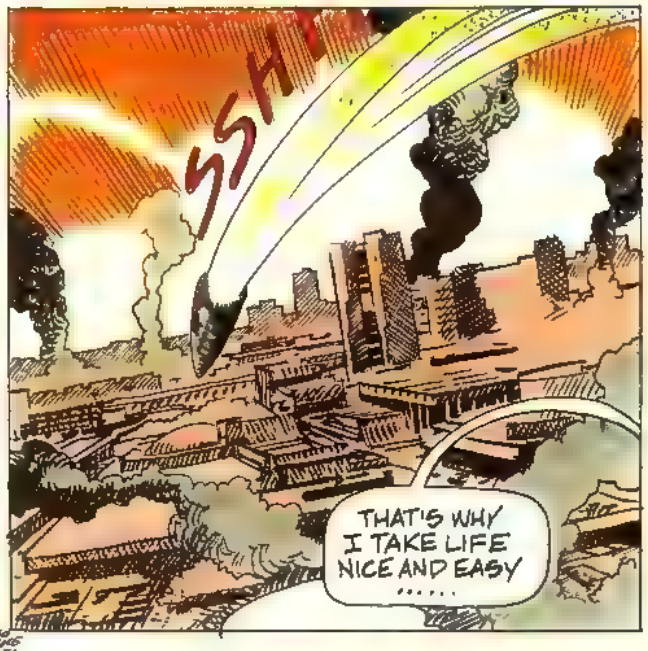
LOOKS LIKE A DIRECT HIT!
WHY.. IT'S A DUD! WE'RE SAVED!
CCCP
6

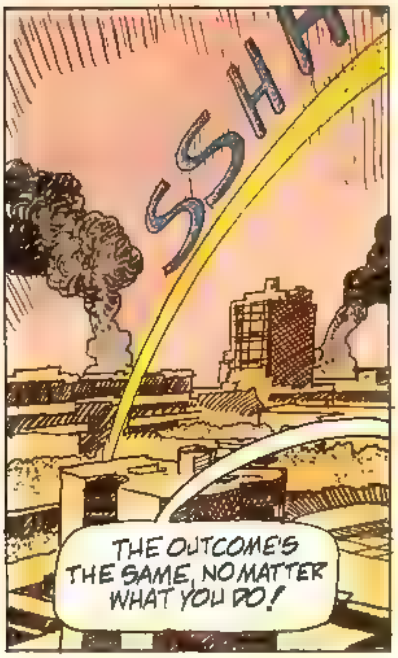
WE'RE NOT GOIN TO DIE!
SURE YOU GOT A REASON TO CELEBRATE?

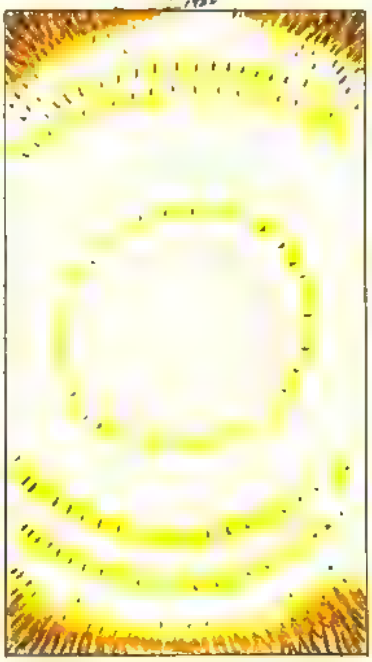
SEEMS EVEN A DUD CAN BE MIGHTY FATAL!

FFFSSSSSSSSSSS
BEE
NOPE, WHEN IT'S YOUR TIME TO GO, YOU GO! NOTHIN' YOU CAN DO 'BOUT IT.


ONLY A FOOL THINKS HE'S GONNA ESCAPE IN THE END.


SSH
THAT'S WHY I TAKE LIFE NICE AND EASY


SSH
THE OUTCOME'S THE SAME, NO MATTER WHAT YOU DO!



THE END

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by SCOTT HAMPTON

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SEPTEMBER, 1986

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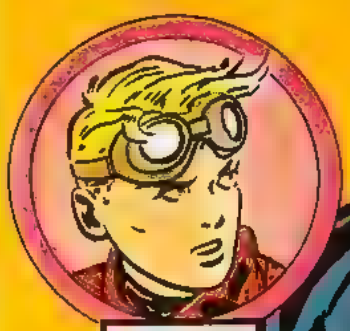

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SEND TO: ECLIPSE COMICS
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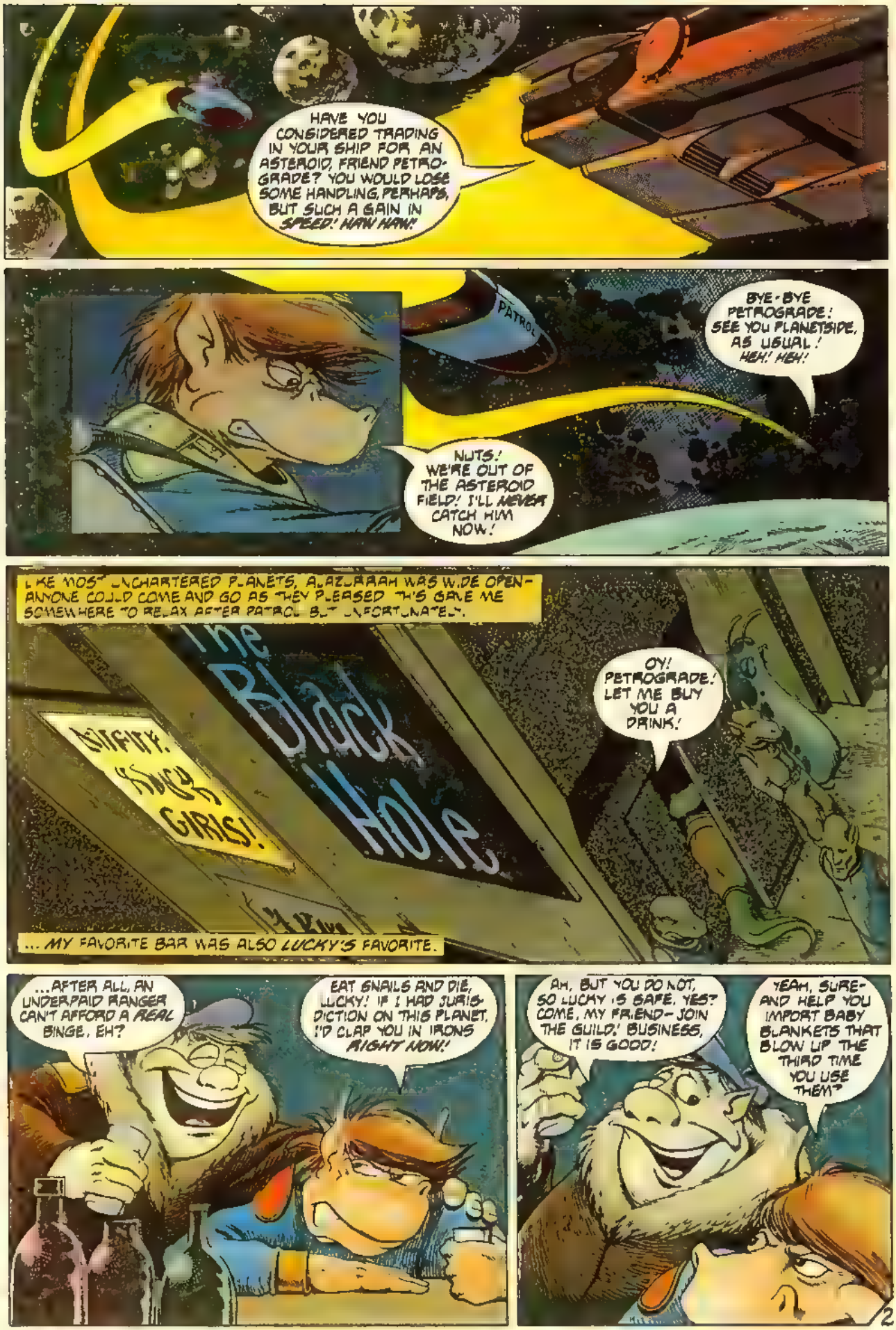
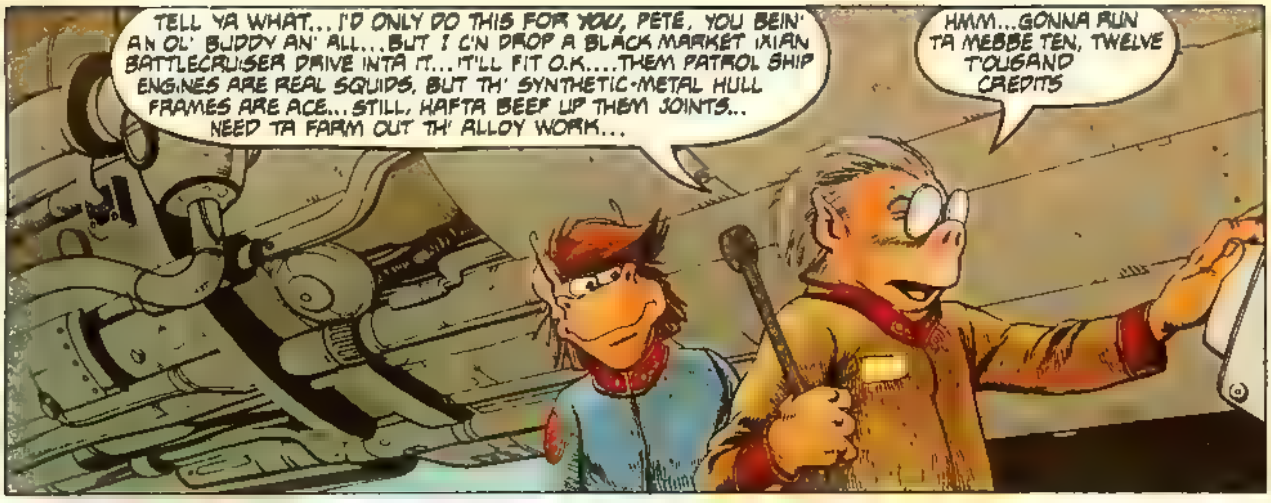
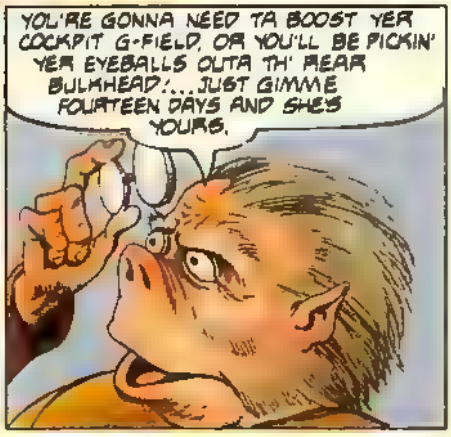
I WASN'T THE SMUGGLING ON THE PLANETS PHYCO AND ALAZURRAH THAT GAVE ME A HEADACHE—AFTER ALL, NEITHER PLANET WAS CHARTERED, SO THE FEDERATION HAD NO JURISDICTION OVER THEM, AND THEREFORE NO CONTROL OVER THE FLOW OF CONTRABAND ON THE PLANETS THEMSELVES—BUT THE SPACE BETWEEN THEM WAS ANOTHER MATTER. THAT WAS MY ASSIGNED BEAT. I'M A FEDERATION SPACE RANGER. MY NAME IS PETE PETROGRADE.
C'MON, LUCKY, PULL IT OVER AND SAVE US BOTH SOME TROUBLE!
ME, ANYWAY..
IN THE TWO MONTHS SINCE MY TRANSFER TO THIS SECTOR, I HAD MANAGED TO SHUT DOWN MOST OF THE "JUNK JOCKEYS" — RIFF-RAFF THAT SMUGGLED DOPE AND SHODDY HAZARDOUS GOODS BETWEEN THE TWO PLANETS. ALL EXCEPT LUCKY. LUCKY HAD A FAST SHIP.
YOU MUST PEDAL FASTER, PETROGRADE! HAW HAW!
MOVING VIOLATION
IF I COULD JUST GET CLOSE ENOUGH, I COULD DISABLE HIM WITH A TRACTOR BEAM....!
HO, HO...WERE I TO DRIFT FOR HALF AN HOUR, PERHAPS YOU WOULD HAVE THE SPORTING CHANCE, YES?
STORY: KEN MACKIN AND TOREN SMITH / ART: KEN MACKIN / COLORING: STEVE OLIFF / LETTERING: C. SPIEGLE

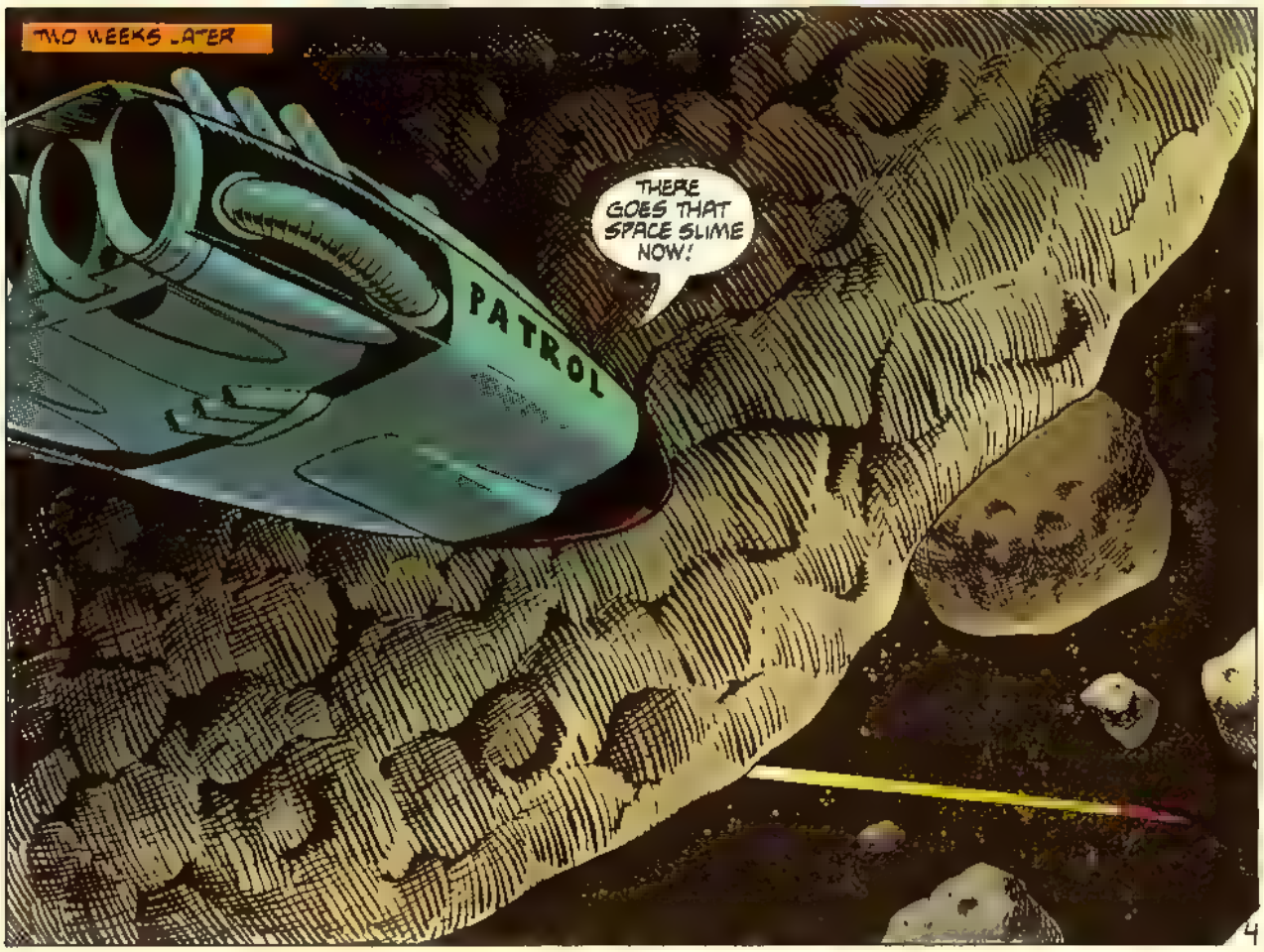

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED TRADING IN YOUR SHIP FOR AN ASTEROID, FRIEND PETROGRADE? YOU WOULD LOSE SOME HANDLING, PERHAPS, BUT SUCH A GAIN IN SPEED! HAW HAW!
PATROL
BYE-BYE PETROGRADE! SEE YOU PLANETSIDE, AS USUAL! HEH! HEH!
NUTS! WE'RE OUT OF THE ASTEROID FIELD! I'LL NEVER CATCH HIM NOW!
LIKE MOST UNCHARTERED PLANETS, ALAZARAAH WAS WIDE OPEN— ANYONE COULD COME AND GO AS THEY PLEASED. THIS GAVE ME SOMEWHERE TO RELAX AFTER PATROL. BUT UNFORTUNATELY...
The Black Hole
FIFTY SEXY GIRLS!
OY! PETROGRADE! LET ME BUY YOU A DRINK!
... MY FAVORITE BAR WAS ALSO LUCKY'S FAVORITE.
...AFTER ALL, AN UNDERPAID RANGER CAN'T AFFORD A REAL BINGE, EH?
EAT SNAILS AND DIE, LUCKY! IF I HAD JURISDICTION ON THIS PLANET, I'D CLAP YOU IN IRONS RIGHT NOW!
AH, BUT YOU DO NOT, SO LUCKY IS SAFE, YES? COME, MY FRIEND— JOIN THE GUILD! BUSINESS, IT IS GOOD!
YEAH, SURE— AND HELP YOU IMPORT BABY BLANKETS THAT BLOW UP THE THIRD TIME YOU USE THEM?
2

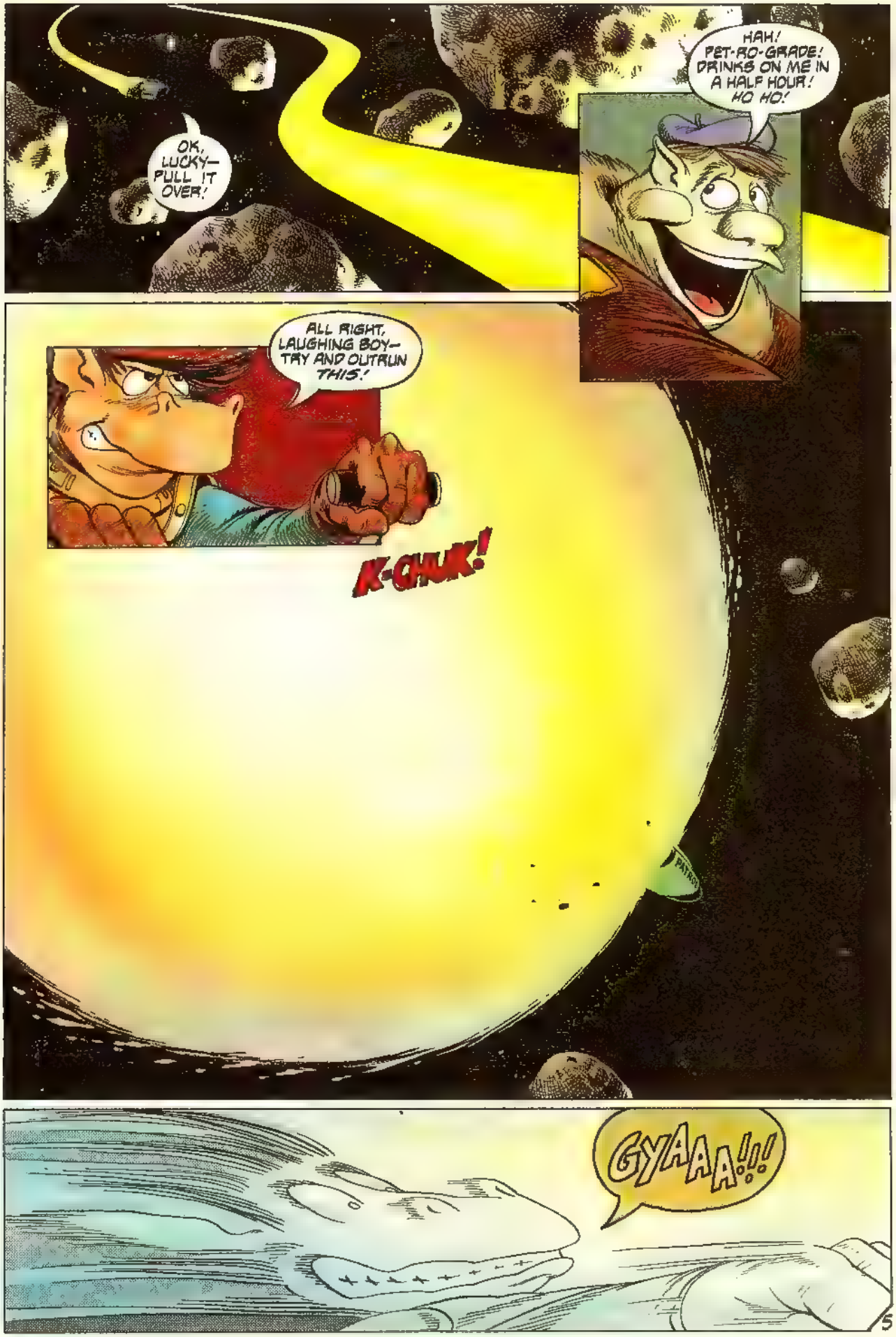
WHAT IS IN THE BOXES, I DO NOT KNOW...BUT THE QUESTIONS, THEY ARE FEW, AND THE CASH—IT IS MANY!
GET STUFFED.
TOO BAD, PETROGRADE...BUT I AM A GENEROUS MAN, AND I HAVE MANY CONTACTS. PERHAPS I COULD FIND YOU THE BIGGER RUBBER BAND FOR YOUR SHIP, YES? HAW HAW HAW!
LUCKY'S SNOTTY COMMENT STARTED ME THINKING, AND LATER THAT DAY...
SAM'S SPEED SHOP
WARP DRIVE DEALER
SAM, I WANT YOU TO MAKE THIS FEDERATION SPACE SLUG INTO THE FASTEST SUB-WARP SHIP IN THE SECTOR!
I DUNNO, PETE—I LIKE A CHALLENGE, Y'KNOW, BUT LUCKY'S SHIP...IT'S PRETTY FAST, HEY?
...BESIDES, HOW FAST CAN YA AFFORD TA GO?
COST IS NO OBJECT—I CAN FAST-TALK PATROL ACCOUNTING.
OH, WELL THEN...


TELL YA WHAT... I'D ONLY DO THIS FOR YOU, PETE, YOU BEIN' AN OL' BUDDY AN' ALL... BUT I C'N DROP A BLACK MARKET IXIAN BATTLECRUISER DRIVE INTA IT... IT'LL FIT O.K.... THEM PATROL SHIP ENGINES ARE REAL SQUIDS, BUT TH' SYNTHETIC-METAL HULL FRAMES ARE ACE... STILL, HAFTA BEEF UP THEM JOINTS... NEED TA FARM OUT TH' ALLOY WORK...
HMM... GONNA RUN TA MEBBE TEN, TWELVE T'OUSAND CREDITS

YEAH, BUT WILL IT BE FAST? I MEAN *REALLY* FAST?
HEY, YOU K.DD'N? THAT MONSTER ENGINE IN THAT LI'L BITTY SHIP?


YOU'RE GONNA NEED TA BOOST YER COCKPIT G-FIELD, OR YOU'LL BE PICKIN' YER EYEBALLS OUTA TH' REAR BULKHEAD!... JUST GIMME FOURTEEN DAYS AND SHE'S YOURS.


TWO WEEKS LATER
PATROL
THERE GOES THAT SPACE SLIME NOW!


OK, LUCKY— PULL IT OVER!
HAH! PET-RO-GRADE! DRINKS ON ME IN A HALF HOUR! HO HO!
ALL RIGHT, LAUGHING BOY— TRY AND OUTRUN THIS!
K-CHUK!
GYAAA!!

SACRÉ BLEU!
WHAM!
MON DIEU! PETROGRADE, HE HAS GONE! VANISHED! NEVER HAVE I SEEN A SHIP GO FAST!
DOD'HHK!
WHA...! I'M NOT MOVING! AND WHAT HAPPENED TO THE STARS?
PATROL
MAYBE I WENT SO FAST, I BROKE SOME KIND OF DIMENSIONAL BARRIER OR SOMETHING! HMM ...OR MAYBE...

GOOD LORD! A GNOME!
GREETINGS! YOU ARE BEING HELD IN A DETAINING FIELD — DO NOT ATTEMPT TO REACTIVATE YOUR ENGINES.
I AM A LAW OFFICER OF THE GALACTIC MASTERS. WE RARELY MAKE OUR PRESENCE KNOWN TO LOWER BEINGS, BUT YOU HAVE VIOLATED OUR VELOCITY ORDINANCES FOR THIS SECTION OF SPACE.
I AM ISSUING YOU WITH A WARNING CITATION — I WOULD SUGGEST THAT YOU READ IT CAREFULLY. I WILL NOW RETURN YOU TO NORMAL SPACE.
WARNING CITATION
GREAT. COPS ARE THE SAME EVERYWHERE.
?!
HEH, HEH, HEH...

LATER, AT "THE BLACK HOLE"...
DRINK UP, SPEEDBALL, 'CAUSE TOMORROW I'M GONNA LOCK ONTO YOUR SHIP AND NAIL YOUR HIDE, BUT GOOD!
TH-THAT SHIP...SHE IS SO FAST!
PETROGRADE... MY FRIEND... LISTEN TO REASON! THERE IS PROFIT ENOUGH FOR MANY! WHY, WITH THAT SHIP, YOU COULD... WE COULD...
PETROGRADE... I BEG YOU... I MUST HAVE THAT SHIP! NO ONE NEED KNOW— I COULD ARRANGE A "THEFT" —YOU COULD BE A WEALTHY MAN!
TALK NUMBERS, LUCKY.
HEH, HEH. GUESS I WON'T BE NEEDING THIS ANYMORE...
WARNING CITATION
IF THIS CRAFT IS AGAIN DETECTED EXCEEDING LOCAL SPEED LIMITS, THE CRAFT AND ALL OCCUPANTS WILL BE PERMANENTLY TRANSPORTED TO AN UNPLEASANT ALTERNATE UNIVERSE AS PROVIDED FOR IN GALACTIC LAW (SEE VOXN VS NRG, 2 14 78)
WELL, THIS'LL PAY OFF SAM, REIMBURSE THE RANGERS FOR THE LOSS OF THE PATROL SHIP, AND STILL LEAVE ME ENOUGH SPARE CHANGE TO SETTLE MY TAB AT "THE BLACK HOLE."
$ $
KEEP OUR CITY CLEAN
END

Native Response

ECLIPSE COMICS • P.O. BOX 199 • GUERNEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95446

Dear Cat and Company,

Friends have been asking me for several months now why I buy every issue of **ALIEN ENCOUNTERS** for an outrageous $1.75 a pop, when I only like one or two stories in any given issue.

"Don't worry," I kept telling them, "it'll get better."

Issue #7, I'm proud to say, has vindicated me. From cover to cover the entire issue didn't contain any substandard stories or art. Everything was top drawer material. I can now shove issue #7 in the faces of my friends, laugh maniacally, and screech, "You shoulda listened to me in the first place, cookiehead!!!!!!"

As they say on those television commercials for an imported car, "Oh, what a feeling." Bruce Jones probably gets tired of people telling him he's great. But his "Under Tartuka" proves what I have liked about him all along—— his ability to write in pure genre. When I read a Bruce Jones S. F. story, I know I'm not reading a western where people are using lasers instead of winchesters. I know I'm not reading a love story where one of the characters happens to be an alien or a robot. I know I'm not reading a detective story where omni-computers are used instead of stoolies and street contacts. When you read a Bruce Jones S. F. story, by God, you're reading an *S. F. story*, not some warmed-over plot in a science fiction setting. Like the best stuff Rod Serling wrote, the best of Jones is *pure imagination*. Besides that, he writes so *good*.

But even Jones' work was challenged by Wheeler's "So You Want to Be in Pictures?" I should have seen the ending coming, but I didn't, and I was drawn right into it. Nice suspense, beautiful art, and the Simone Kirby (which I suspect was a tribute of some kind to the Simon/Kirby team) pun increased my enjoyment.

Rick Geary's bizarre ramblings have always appealed to me. Since Geary is a transplanted Kansan, any more lavish praise might look a tad "overeager." Suffice it to say I'll buy any magazine I see a Geary piece in. Now, about that final story...

Did you have the cover first and then have Jones write a story *around* it, or did Jones do the story and then you had some artist (the cover was great and unfortunately uncredited) do the cover? What about the Monroe atom bomb cover next ish? Was that inspired by the story or vice-versa?

Whoever was responsible for what, I love it!!!! Let's not forget, with all that razzle dazzle, that Chuck Beckum did a wonderful job on the art. Keep producing issues like this, and this comic will be at the top of the fanboy list in no time flat.

T. E. Pouncey
Wichita, Kansas 67208
(No street address given)

Well, T. E., the story Picture You and Me *was inspired . . . no. It was from the painting that Bruce wrote a . . . or was it the other painting. You know, it could have been the story which came first . . . but then again . . . I don't know which came first, one of the paintings or the story. Let us just say that the fates conspired to arrange three random elements in a unified fashion, thereby disrupting any and all claims that entropy is a guiding hand in the universe.*

Though it is difficult to read, the cover to **ALIEN ENCOUNTERS NO. 7** *was signed by master painter Corey Wolfe. I've received several letters asking who has painted the covers seen on this series, so in order from No. 1 to No. 8, they are: Joe Chiodo, Peter Ledger, Mick Austin, John Bolton, David Dorman, Peter Ledger, Corey Wolfe and Mick Austin. If you can't find or can't read an artist's signature on the cover, you can always look on the inside front cover in the indicia, where all creators are given their proper copyright notices.*

Hey, Cat—

Who's responsible for the cover to **ALIEN ENCOUNTERS #7**? Whoever it is, they did quite a nice job. As a matter of fact, it was my favorite part of this issue.

Elvis Orten
Route #4, Box 120
Dawson Springs, KY 42408

Dear Elvis,
See above.

Dear Cat and Sean,

As you know, it is not easy producing a science fiction anthology comic. Even these days, with the great abundance of science fiction-oriented books and series, the genre is rarely presented effectively. Usually, we are give cliché-ridden space opera, pointless fantasy or thinly disguised futuristic morality

plays. Well, thankfully, Bruce Jones came along with his milestone anthology series *Alien Worlds* several years ago, and set the standard for meaningful, enjoyable, intelligent postulative fiction in comics—and, also, thankfully, you people decided to pick up the torch after Bruce's book ended.

ALIEN ENCOUNTERS is definitely quality work, and follows the attitudes and style of both Jones and the classic EC science fiction of the '50s. You don't quite measure up to the sheer brilliance of that past material—due, I feel, to the lack of a single, driving creator behind the collections of writers and artists—but you have the right idea, and with every issue you come closer to the visions of the past. In other words, I don't gape and marvel at the stories you publish—but I do smile and nod appreciatively. **ALIEN ENCOUNTERS** is an ambitious project with a bold and rich heritage to live up to, and it deserves some time to develop.

Anyway, issue 7 was another competent and pleasurable volume. There were no earth-shakers or mind-blowers included, but all three stories were taut, interesting and well-done. In particular, I enjoyed "So You Want to Be in Pictures?" by Wheeler and Howell, a sly little tale with a nasty twist at the end. This piece was imaginative and unusual and the ironic catch-ending reminded me of some of my favorite *Twilight Zone* episodes. During the story I knew something would happen, that the stardom deal was too good to be true, but I never knew exactly what the hitch would be. The plot wasn't *too* unbelievable, either; the idea of capturing a person's image in a computer for use in films isn't too far away from current technology, and the ruthless destruction of an actress' .copyrighted image probably isn't too far away from the techniques studios have used already to exploit and ensnare performers. Most believable of all, though, extrapolating from current technology, was the use of dead actors' and actresses' images in films after they become public domain. Just wait a while—I think you've hit on a genuine prediction here! I can see it now—Stallone, Schwarzenegger and Marilyn Monroe in *Some Like it Hot*! Or Michael J. Fox opposite Bergman in *Casablanca*! Many would stoop so low if the means were available.

When I saw that Bruce Jones had scripted two pieces in this issue, I was very excited, envisioning a return to the glory of *Alien Worlds*. Unfortunately, both segments were predictable and conventional, nothing near the fabulous level of writing in *Worlds*. If they had been written by anyone else, I would say they were coherent, imaginative examples of science fiction; coming from the maestro of anthology work, they were tremendous disappointments. Bruce has assembled such a body of exciting, visionary, innovative work that to see him produce basic formula stories was a let-down. I would love to see him in the pages of **ALIEN ENCOUNTERS** again, only with more of the marvelous, sparkling prose he is famous for.

"Under Tartuka" was nothing special, a rehash of plots I'm sure I've read before. The soldiers in an interplanetary war...the human changing to a member of an alien race, and deciding to stay an alien...both have been done before. I didn't' like the characters, either...not because they were unpleasant (which they were) but because they were not portrayed very deeply. Both humans were hollow stereotypes—the brutal, macho commander and the helpless, sobbing woman who was too scared to defend herself in battle and allowed herself to be abused and humiliated by the man. The only story element I found remotely intriguing was the fact that the real circumstances were never revealed. We never knew if the place was Earth or Altaira...who had been the aggressor in the war...and who was lying to Jenny.

"Picture Me and You" was cute, but again, I've read it before somewhere. Though the script and characters and events were new, the basic idea has surfaced before, that of art or fiction influencing reality in a supernatural way. Again, the characters were unsympathetic and shallow, depriving the reader of a hook to draw him in and sustain his or her attention. Pete, the artist, cheats with the wife of a guy who practically saved his life; he sort of deserves the suffering he goes through. I *did* get a big kick out of the promo page for the next issue, however, which featured the "Bombshell" cover—and which appeared right after the kicker in the story involved the publishing of a similar nuclear bomb comic cover. It was a nice touch, especially the caption—"No, we're not kidding!" I know one reader who won't be hanging around Manhattan when next issue hits the stands...just in case, y'know.

The art on all three pieces was sharp, but nothing stupendous. "It Happened This Morning" was a trivial throwaway, but I always like Geary's unmatchable style. All in all, a good, but not remarkable, issue. I know you'll keep plugging away, though, and I expect much bigger things in the future. Think *innovate!* Think *dazzle!*

Sincerely,

Robert T. Jeschonek
129 Hostetler Rd.
Johnstown, PA 15904

Since you live closer to the Big Apple than I on the West Coast, Robert, drop me a quick line as to whether the city has survived our publishing of this issue or not. Or better yet—everyone in Manhattan, write us a letter telling us whether you're alive or not! At the same time you can jot down your thoughts on this issue's contents. Just as we are with Robert's letter, we are interested in your comments also.

Next issue Bruce Jones teams up with John Bolton to tell us the story of "The Conquered." Plus, Douglas Wheeler returns with John Snyder of **FASHION IN ACTION** *fame to bring you "And How Does One Spell Love?" All this and two more stories under a brilliant painting by English artist John Higgins. Don't miss it!*

—Sean

From Around The World...

"They Are Coming!"

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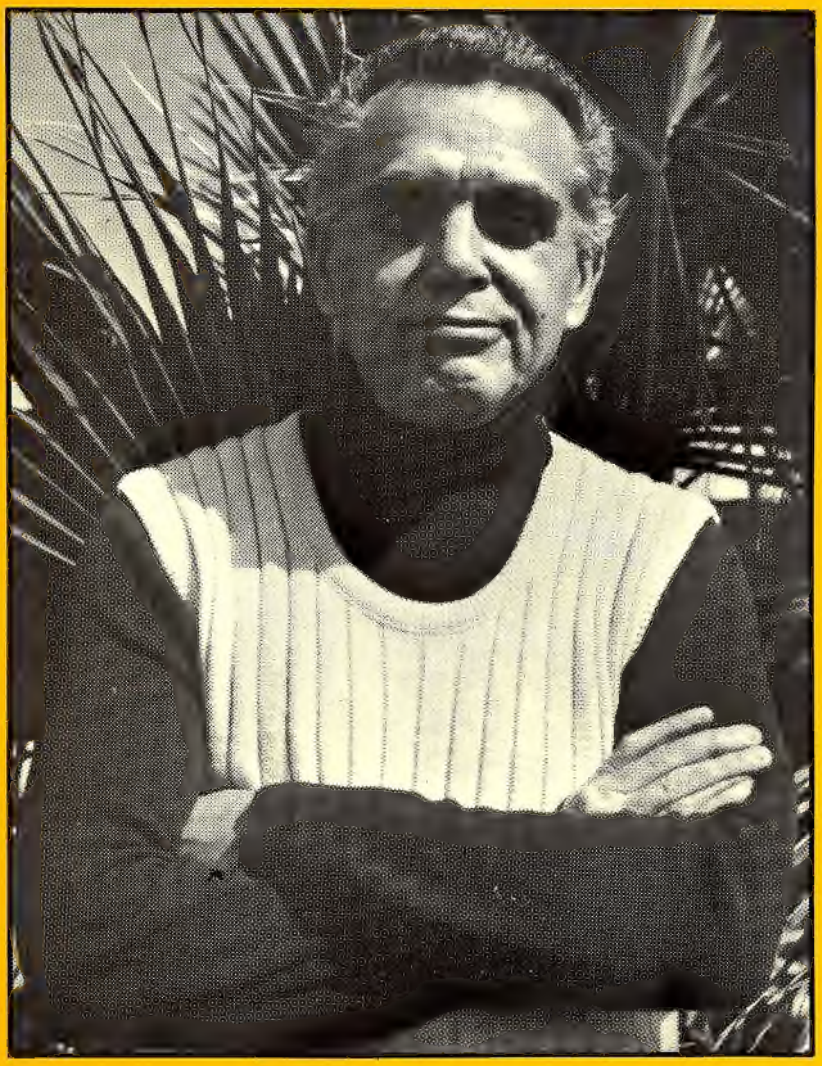

What about Jack?

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